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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,194	11/04/2003	Hideaki Akizuki	ADACHI P217USD1	5064
20210	7590	04/20/2004	EXAMINER	
DAVIS & BUJOLD, P.L.L.C.				CHAN, KO HUNG
FOURTH FLOOR				ART UNIT
500 N. COMMERCIAL STREET				PAPER NUMBER
MANCHESTER, NH 03101-1151				3632

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/701,194	AKIZUKI, HIDEAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Korie H. Chan	3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 04 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 13-32 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 13-32 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/22/2003.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai (US patent no. 6,209,827) in view of Anderson (US patent no. 2,059,429). Kawai'827 discloses a fixing member having a C-shaped main body (1) with an elastically deformable extending portion (12a and 12b) which is planar and curved each having a projection (14, the other not labeled13a) at the end of the extending portion, a support (15) and a plate-like member (plate on the plane of 16a and 16b) for insertion into an attachment hole (3b) and which slid transversely with respect to the hole (**figure 7A and 7B embodiments**) in order to elastically deform the extending portion (12a and 12b) wherein the plate-like member has an abutting portion (16a or 16b) which abuts the plate surface around at least a portion of the circumference of the attachment hole.

Regarding claims 15-24 and 27-32, Kawai'827 does not show the support an offset disc portion at the end of the support wherein the support has first and second curved surfaces abutting one another along opposed ridges. Anderson'429 teaches in a fixing device of providing a disc portion (25) with abutting portion (29, figure 6) connected to the support (23', figure 6) wherein the support has first and second curved surfaces (30, 40, fig. 5) abutting one another along opposed ridges to further prevent lateral swinging of the fixing device relative to the attachment hole (page 2, col. 2, lines

1-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the support member of Kawai'827 such that plate member is an offset disc portion and the support has two curved surfaces abutting one another along opposed ridges as taught by Anderson'429 further prevent lateral swing of the fixing device within the attachment hole in the transverse sliding attachment of Kawai.

However, Kawai and Anderson does not disclose the disc portion is circular and the first curved surface has the same curvature as the curvature of the disc portion. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the first curved surface with the same curvature as the curvature of the disc portion since applicant has not disclosed that such curvature solves the stated problem or is of particular advantage. Moreover, the arrangement shown by Kawai would perform as well.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Korie H. Chan whose telephone number is 703-305-8079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Korie H. Chan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

khc
April 16, 2004